E/1995/Misc/1
12 June 1995
ENGLISH ONLY

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
Substantive session of 1995
Geneva, 26 June-28 July 1995
Agenda item 4

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SEGMENT

Submissions by specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system

1. In its decision 1994/293 of 28 July 1995, the Economic and Social Council decided that the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of its substantive sesion of 1995 would consider as a principal theme the implementation of the programme of action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development.

2. Relevant specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system were requested, in Council decision 1995/213 of 10 February 1995, to prepare background information on that theme.

3. Background papers received as of 12 June 1995 are included in the present document in the language of submission. Further information received will be submitted as an addendum.

95-18253

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA

The International Conference on Population and Development 1994 and its Programme of Action for the next 20 years is considered a qualitative shift as compared to the earlier International Population Conference.

ESCWA analyzed the document of ICPD Programme of Action immediately after the Conference, in order to identify the areas of consistency and its conformity with the Second Amman Declaration on Population and Development in the Arab World, which was adopted by Arab States delegations to the Arab Population Conference held in Amman April 1993 and sponsored by ESCWA, UNFPA and the League of Arab States. The aforementioned declaration represents the core population issues that received Arab consensus and approval of their importance as priorities of population programmes for the region during the next two decades.

Fortunately, the analysis of the ICPD Programme of Action coincided with the preparation of ESCWA's Work Programme and priorities for 1995, and 1996-1997. This fact made it possible to include several activities in the Work Programme of the Population Section, that are in line with the vision and directions of the ICPD Programme of Action.

Specifically the following actions has been taken by ESCWA as initial steps towards implementing the most relevant and priority population issues in the ESCWA region relevant to ICPD programme of Action:

1. The ICPD Programme of Action focused on the importance of population policies to sustainable development. Thus urged all states to formulate appropriate national population policies, and encouraged the regional commissions and the specialized United Nations Agencies to provide to the countries the requisite assistance in formulation, monitoring and evaluation of their population policies, and to integrate them into the national development strategies.

   In this connection, the plan and the Work Programme of the ESCWA Population Section for the 1995, 1996 and 1997 included a special activity relating to population policies in the ESCWA member states. The aim of the activity is to create a data and information base that will include, among other things, legislation and stated positions on various components of population policy (fertility, mortality, migration population structure and distribution.. etc).

   The Population Section will carry on this activity, which is mainly financed by the United Nations Population Fund, over the next three years. It includes the provision, by the secretariat, of technical assistance and training to member states in the field of formulation and design of population policies and assessment of the effects of such policies on the people and on the quality of life at both the national and regional levels. In addition, the

secretariat will prepare a number of studies on fundamental aspects of population policy which will then be published, distributed and discussed with the member States at conferences and symposia to be organized by ESCWA.

Furthermore, ESCWA aimed, through this project, at establishing a network of National Population Councils at the regional level to exchange experiences and develop strategies for meeting the new challenges and emerging socio-economic issues and problems related to population dynamics.

2. The Programme of Action reaffirmed the relationship between population and development, and the close link that exists between human resources and the level and pattern of development. It also reaffirmed that the level and sustainability of development and the benefits reaped from it depend on the population factor, both quantitatively and qualitatively, and that demographic change plays a fundamental role in determining the course of social and economic advancement.

Within this context, the Programme of Action urged Governments, and regional commissions and international agencies to assist them, to review periodically their development strategies with a view to assessing the progress made in integrating population aspects into sustainable development. The Work Programme of the ESCWA Population Section includes a clearly defined activity that involves follow-up to this question, the provision of technical advice and training to member States and the holding of a regional training workshop on incorporation of demographic elements and variables into the planning and preparation of development strategies.

3. The Programme of Action emphasized the promotion of research and development on the operations of collection and analysis of population data and on the flow of information among those responsible for the implementation of population programmes, with a view to the formulation and evaluation of strategies, plans and programmes, and the monitoring of their impact. In this connection, the ESCWA secretariat has resolved to carry out the following activities, making use of its available expertise:

(a) Continued preparation of "Demographic Estimates and Projections" for the States of Western Asia; coordination and cooperation with the United Nations Population Division, which regularly reviews the global estimates and Projections, with a view to the exchange of information pertaining to the countries of the region.

(b) Continued yearly publication of the "Population Bulletin of ESCWA" which is regarded as a vehicle for the publication of population knowledge and the results of demographic studies and the dissemination of the experience gathered in carrying out population

programmes in the countries of the region.

4. Recently, ESCWA initiated preliminary contacts with UNFPA/CST and National Population Councils of some member States in the region, to convene a high-level regional conference to discuss the political, programmatic and new population trends and issues that emerged from the International Population and Development Conference.

It was agreed that other preparatory meetings will follow soon to convene the conference before the end of 1995.

In this connection, the Executive Secretary and Deputy Executive Secretary met with the Coordinator of UNFPA/CST for Arab States and Europe and with the Deputy Chief of DASE/UNFPA. They welcomed the idea of ESCWA cooperation with UNFPA and the League of Arab States to convene the high-level Conference in order to formulate a regional vision of Post - ICPD.

It was also agreed that ESCWA would submit a project proposal on establishing a comprehensive data base on gender statistics to UNFPA for discussion and funding.

Several International and Regional Inter-Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations including the International Union for Scientific Study of Population, Arab Demographers Association, Population Council, League of Arab States, UNFPA and ESCWA established a preparatory committee for a Scientific Regional Conference on Population issues in the Arab World planned for December 1996 as a follow up to ICPD. ESCWA's contribution will be determined during the meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in line with the resources of the Population Section for 1995 - 1996.

WORLD BANK

1. The World Bank played an active role in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in September, 1994. The Bank endorsed ICPD' s new vision of population and is working actively to implement the Cairo Program of Action. In his address to the Conference, former World Bank President Lewis Preston noted that the Bank had already adopted the broader approach to population policy recommended in the Program of Action: "Speaking for the World Bank, our support for poverty reduction focuses on the same investments required for a broad approach to fertility reduction. About half of the projects that we finance now include specific components aimed at empowering women. Last year, we committed almost $2 billion for education alone - much of it focused on keeping girls in school. Over the last five years, the Bank has also become one of the largest financiers of family planning and reproductive health services. Close to $200 million was committed last year, and this is projected to increase by 50 percent over the next three years." In recent years, the Bank has dramatically increased its investments in people - from about 5 percent of lending in the early 1980s to 15 percent in 1994.

2. The Bank's plans for responding to the ICPD Program of Action are spelled out in the document "Population and Development: Implications for the World Bank," which was prepared for the Conference. This document calls for the Bank to focus its efforts on: (1) helping the world's poorest countries to complete their demographic transitions to low mortality and fertility rates; (2) linking population more effectively to core development agendas, particularly those that empower women; and (3) broadening the scope of family planning programs to address a wider range of reproductive health goals. The approach is based on the Bank's conviction that while slowing of population growth remains an important development objective for many countries, broader approaches to population policy are both more consistent with underlying individual and societal welfare goals and more effective in guiding the actions needed to achieve them.

3 . Bank staff are now working with borrower countries and other donors to implement the Cairo agenda. These efforts are taking place at the global, regional, and country levels. The Bank is participating in the Donor Workgroup on Implementing Reproductive Health Programs organized as a follow-up to the OECD/DAC meeting on the Cairo Program of Action last November. Bank representatives are involved in a number of Task Forces organized by UNFPA and other UN agencies on ICPD follow-up. At the country level, new efforts have been initiated to assess the reproductive health needs of populations in borrower countries, to appraise the existing capacity to meet those needs, and to develop strategies for bridging gaps in resources, organization, and management capacity. For example, a major review is being conducted in India, which is the Bank's largest borrower for population activities. Similar efforts are now being considered for several other countries.

4. The Bank plays a key role in mobilizing resources for implementation of the Cairo agenda. In FY 1994, the Bank committed $424 million for projects involving population and reproductive health information and services. About $200 million of this total was for family planning, with the remainder for other reproductive health activities (safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS, etc.). Among the new population/reproductive health projects approved in FY 1995 are the Philippines Women 's Health and Safe Motherhood Project, which has a strong reproductive health focus, and the Pakistan Population Welfare Program Project, which adds a population/reproductive health component to Pakistan's innovative Social Action Program. A number of new initiatives are also underway in Africa, including a Population and AIDS Control Project in Chad, a Health, Fertility and Nutrition Project in Cameroon, Benin's Second Population and Health Project, and projects aimed at the control of sexually transmitted infections in Kenya and Uganda.

5. As Mr. Preston noted in his Cairo address, Bank assistance in population is not limited to family planning and reproductive health. Investments in education (now averaging about $2 billion annually) are increasingly being targeted on keeping girls in school. Strategies to target underserved groups and to help them take better advantage of educational opportunities have been coupled with efforts to increase the capability of local institutions to provide quality education and reproductive health services. More than two-thirds of the Bank's social sector projects include gender-specific interventions. For example, in Bangladesh a new project addresses out-of-school and in-school constraints on enrolling girls in secondary school through an innovative program of stipends to keep girls in school. Having started in 59 subdistricts and now expanded into 118, this project will eventually benefit 1.3 million girls.

6. As the Cairo Program of Action involves the Bank in areas of policy change and multi-sectoral activities that are much more complex than typical infrastructure investments, there is growing consensus that households and communities affected by these interventions need to participate in their design and implementation. The Bank is making great efforts to find new ways to listen to, learn from, and work with communities and households. It also recognizes the important role that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community groups can play in representing the views of stakeholders in Bank-financed projects. Many projects now rely on a wide range of national and international NGOs to assist in project design, implementation, and evaluation. In the Brazil AIDS and STD Control Project, NGOs submit competing proposals to the project for grants of up to $100,000 a year for AIDS prevention, testing for high-risk groups, and hospice-type care of AIDS patients. Nearly 300 grants were approved in the first year of the project.

7. The Bank is also strengthening its own capacity to work more effectively in the social sectors. Sectoral managers are assessing recruitment and deployment patterns, and an expanded training program is being devised. The education and the population, health and nutrition groups in the Human Resource Vice Presidency are being

combined in a way that should enable the department to provide more coherent support to the Bank's operational units that deal with social sector analyses, policy dialogue, and lending.

8. The Bank provides more than just funding for human development. It also provides technical assistance, a forum for discussion, and a mechanism for countries to obtain the full range of assistance that they need to alter their spending patterns and reform their social sector policies. These reforms can have a far greater impact on improving the welfare of their people than the Bank's lending, which should play a catalytic role in the reform process.

9. The Bank also pays explicit attention to the role of the private sector in providing education and health services - and to cost recovery and its impact on equity and efficiency. The private sector already serves a large, diverse clientele in industrial countries, often delivering services of higher quality than public providers. Public-private competition can improve the quality and efficiency of services and permit reallocation of scarce public-sector funds for meeting the needs of underserved groups.

10. The Bank will continue to involve beneficiaries in policy work and project design and implementation - participation that is essential to successful investments in human development as called for in the Cairo Program of Action. The Bank's work in any country will depend on that client's commitment to human resource investments. Where that commitment is stronger, the focus will be on solutions to agreed-upon problems. Where it is weaker, the focus will tend to be on identifying the causes and manifestations of poverty.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Following the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) an analysis of the Programme of Action was conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in order to identify the most important aspects upon which the Organization, in line with its mandate, could focus in its future programme of work. This analysis, tailored to FAO's concerns and priorities, was presented in a brief working document which was widely distributed to the various technical divisions of FAO.

This working document stressed that the Cairo Programme of Action had recognized the "centrality" of population to the development process, thus conveying a new legitimacy for integrating population factors in FAO's activities, which are development oriented. In view of FAO's development orientation and responsibilities in the follow-up of UNCED Agenda 21, three chapters of the Programme of Action received special emphasis, i.e. Chapter III, *'Interrelations between sustained economic growth and sustainable development'*; Chapter IX, *'Population distribution, urbanization and internal migration'*; and Chapter X, *'International migration'*. The relations between population and environment, and sustainable development and migration were particularly emphasized as being of direct concern to FAO and its own programme. Particular note was taken of the importance given to interactions between population and ecosystems and the circumstances under which the latter were vulnerable.

The working document also drew attention to gender issues, which the Organization had already been integrating through its work plan. The renewed emphasis given to women and gender issues in the Programme of Action, as well as the strategy of empowerment of women and changes in gender roles of men and women, were highlighted. The working document also drew attention to the issues related to funding of activities, particularly in relation to population and development.

The work programme of the newly established Population Programme Service within the Women and People's Participation Division (SDW) of the Sustainable Development Department was designed to follow-up the implementation of the Programme of Action > To this end, a new programme element has been proposed for inclusion within the new sub-programme on Population and Sustainable Development.

The proposed strategy for the Population Programme was presented to the Senior Management of the Organization which in turn recommended its adoption. This strategy took into account the Cairo Programme of Action and proposed its follow-up at two levels: (i) through the activities of the Women in Development Service (SDDW) itself, and (ii) through assisting other technical divisions and units within the Organization in mainstreaming relevant population factors within their own activities.

The implications of the Cairo Programme of Action have also been considered by the UNFPA funded TSS Headquarters specialists in the preparation of their work programme for 1995. In addition, the working document was forwarded to the FAO Regional Advisers in the UNFPA Country Support Teams. It should be noted, however, that the expected shortage of resources for population activities within FAO is going to constitute a limiting factor to the scope and intensity of the follow-up for which the appropriate institutional setting has now been established under the revised structure of the Organization.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

The implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The ICPD called on the willingness of governments, local communities, the non-governmental sector, the international community and other concerned organizations and individuals to turn the recommendations of the conference, embodied in the Programme of Action, into action.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa places emphasis of the implementation of the Programme of Action of ICPD along with the Dakar/Ngor Declaration, which are the two main frameworks, guiding its activities on population matters during the next decade or so. To this end, a Follow-up Committee has been set up to monitor the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the ICPD Programme of Action.

In addition, a number of other activities have been planned:

- Experts/NGOs Workshop on the Implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the Programme of Action of ICPD, 6-9 June 1995, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

The Workshop brought together experts and NGOs working in the field of population and development to review and discuss modalities of implementing both the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and the ICPD.94 Programme of Action.

As well, during the biennium 1996-1997, the following activities have been programmed:

- A report to the Joint Conference of African Planners Statisticians, Population and Information Specialists on progress made towards the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and ICPD 1994's Programme of Action in ECA member States;

- Second meeting of the Follow-up Committee for the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration;

- Technical publication on factors that promote or constrain the implementation of the Dakar/Ngor Declaration and Programme of Action of ICPD.94; and

- Advisory missions on the implementation population policies.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN

As part of the United Nations system, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has already started to implement the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994. This is being done through its regular work programme, which includes the monitoring of population trends and policies and by providing support to the Latin American and Caribbean countries regarding their Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development.

The Regional Population Programme of ECLAC

In the substantive work programmes of ECLAC, a specific section is devoted to the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Population Programme, which is being executed within the ECLAC system by the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE). Although this Centre is responsible for the Regional Population Programme, population-related issues are also being dealt with, in close collaboration with CELADE, in other substantive work programmes of ECLAC, such as Social Development and Environment and Human Settlements. At the same time, these and other ECLAC subprogrammes support the Regional Population Programme through the provision of relevant social and economic development inputs. On the basis of the results of the Conference, the ECLAC system will aim at an even greater integration of population issues into the relevant substantive programmes.

The aim of the work programme activities, in addition to the monitoring of population trends and policies, is to support the countries on population and development issues in a conceptual, instrumental and practical way through the development of applied research and relevant tools, information, dissemination, awareness-creation and training.

While the work programmes for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 were approved prior to the Cairo Conference, their contents are still valid, although it is necessary to broaden their scope in order to provide adequate support for country members dealing with the major issues of the Cairo Programme of Action. Some changes to this effect have already been proposed. It should be noted, however, that such an effort will be hampered by the scarcity of available resources.

The major guidelines for the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action and its incorporation into the ECLAC work plan are provided by the Draft Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development, approved by the member countries of ECLAC at its most recent session (resolution 536(XXV)). This draft has recently been

enhanced through the incorporation in draft form, by the Presidency of the Committee of High-level Government Experts (CEGAN) and the ECLAC Secretariat, of the results of the International Conference, on the basis of suggestions put forward by country representatives; it is currently being submitted to the ECLAC member countries for final approval as the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development.

Moreover, at that twenty-fifth session, the ECLAC members agreed to establish an **ECLAC sessional Committee on Population and Development**, composed of representatives of the countries members of ECLAC. This committee will begin functioning at the twenty-sixth session in 1996, and will have final responsibility for the follow-up and review of the Regional Plan of Action. The ECLAC Secretariat has been requested to support the sessional Committee, as well as the subregional organizations, in their coordination of regional and subregional activities, in close cooperation with other international and United Nations agencies, especially the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

Draft Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development

At the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Conference on Population and Development, held in Mexico City from 29 April to 4 May 1993, the ECLAC member countries, after reaching consensus on the major population and development issues, as reflected in the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, expressed the need to prepare a plan of regional and subregional actions in order to support the national activities designed to fulfil the agreed objectives and goals. The preparation of the draft Regional Plan of Action, in which all the Latin American and Caribbean countries participated very actively, was carried out through several work meetings at the regional and subregional levels.

In this document, before outlining the specific proposals for regional and subregional activities which constitute the core of the draft Plan, the countries specify their objectives and goals and make recommendations for action. Such action takes into account the links between population, development and the environment and promotes progress in ensuring respect for human rights and redressing the inequality of living conditions observed among different social and ethnic groups and geographic areas, as well as between men and women. These objectives, goals and recommendations for action are set forth in accordance with the major items dealt with at the International Conference on Population and Development, in the following fields: population, development and the environment; gender equality; reproductive health, reproductive rights, family planning and family well-being; territorial distribution of population and internal migration;

international migration and development; institutionalization of population policies and programmes; and training, information and research.

It should be noted that these objectives and recommendations for action are intended for implementation mainly at the national level. While in the collective view of the countries of the region these recommendations apply to all of them, it is understood that each country will adapt them to its own circumstances.

The Plan contains proposals for joint activities on the assumption that greater mutual collaboration and support among the countries of the region will result in more solid progress towards the accomplishment of these goals. Accordingly, the regional and subregional activities specified in this Plan are intended to support or facilitate national action.

The proposed regional and subregional actions are classified as follows:

- Meetings of the sessional Committee on Population and Development mainly at ECLAC regular sessions, for overall analysis;

- Seminars for exchanges of experience and knowledge among governmental, non-governmental and academic experts on issues relevant for the formulation, execution and evaluation of population policy and programmes;

- Issue-focused workshops which can respond to the need to create awareness of population issues and to improve the execution of programmes and policies;

- Training activities which can respond to country demands for training and human resources development in demography and population at diverse levels;

- Working groups to study specific topics of interest in preparation for the above-mentioned seminars;

- Strengthening of horizontal cooperation among the countries of the region;

- Joint research projects and comparative studies among countries;

- Maintenance and strengthening of data banks and regional information networks.

Finally, the Presiding Officers of the sessional Committee on Population and Development assisted by the ECLAC Secretariat, and in close cooperation with the international organizations and relevant institutions within the United Nations system, especially

UNFPA, will provide the necessary follow-up and review of this Plan, coordinate the regional and subregional activities and explore sources for financing them.

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT)

Background

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) recognizes the inextricable links between human settlements development and population in the broader area of economic and social development. The current need for accelerated human settlements development in many parts of the world is a direct consequence of population growth. An integrative approach to human settlements issues with population and development must, therefore, focus on issues of population growth and distribution, including socio-economic determinants of internal and international migration, rural-urban linkages and urbanisation. These issues feature prominently in some of the elements of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). UNCHS (Habitat) actively participated in the preparatory activities of the Conference, as well as in the Conference itself, and contributed a publication entitled **Population, Urbanisation and Quality of Life**. This publication examines the role of urbanisation in population management and underlines its positive impacts on demographic, social and economic conditions and trends.

Among the areas on which ICPD focused, the following are the most relevant to the activities of UNCHS (Habitat):

(a) Changes in the distribution of population, including socio-economic determinants of internal and international migration and the consequences for urban and rural development.

(b) Population growth, including changes in demographic structure, ageing and the regional diversity of such changes, with particular emphasis on interaction between demographic variables and socio-economic development.

The above issues dovetail well with those of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Much of the preparations for this Conference which has been dubbed, the "City Summit", involves among others, developing strategies, frameworks and context for realising the recommendations of Chapter nine of the ICPD Programme of Action - namely "Distribution of Population, Urbanization and Internal Migration". Among the activities undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat) has been the encouragement of countries to develop integrated national Plans of Action for the Habitat II process, which includes an assessment of shelter and urbanization trends and issues, review of the effectiveness of existing policies and strategies, poverty alleviation with emphasis on employment generation in urban and rural areas, consideration of equity and the needs of vulnerable social groups, environmental management, disaster mitigation and reconstruction, consideration of the status and role of women and gender-specific perspectives in development issues and access to resources etc. The entire Habitat II process seeks to mobilize and integrate all population groups in the development process and promote the participation of all actors - governmental, private sector, community groups and non-governmental organizations in the process.

UNCHS (Habitat) is already implementing programmes and projects which fit within an integrated approach to population and development. Some of these were started after the ICPD, while others have been on-going. These programmes and projects fall within three thematic areas, viz.: population growth and urbanisation; population distribution and sustainable development; and issues related to refugees and internally displaced persons.

Population Growth and Urbanisation

The rapid rate of urbanisation, particularly in developing countries, poses immense challenges related to human settlements development. UNCHS (Habitat) is currently implementing a number of programmes and projects aimed at managing and providing solutions to the problems resulting from rapid urban population increase. One is the Urban Management Programme, which is one of the major multi-agency support programmes initiated by UNCHS (Habitat). The objectives of the programme include: improving urban efficiency in use of resources; providing acceptable living and working conditions for all urban residents; and facilitating economic production and growth. The programme is focused at improving the management capacity of central and local government personnel, including research to help identify viable solutions to problems brought about by rapid urbanisation.

In furtherance of this objective, UNCHS (Habitat) had convened an International Conference during 3 - 7 October 1994 which reappraised approaches to the planning of integrated urban development to improve the living and working conditions of all population groups. The Conference drew participants from all regions of the World and formulated a set of new planning paradigms to realise successful integration of population and development and effective provision of services to the population . This set of new planning paradigms included community participation in the development process, involvement of all population groups, horizontal and vertical coordination of the development process, the principle of subsidiarity integration of physical and economic planning, education and capacity - building at all levels, among others.

In response to a high demand for City level statistical data, UNCHS (Habitat) launched the City Data Programme in 1991. The main objective of this programme is to develop a sustainable and cost-effective urban data collection and dissemination system and to develop and maintain a global database on cities which will facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of urban conditions and trends.

With regard to poverty alleviation, the urban Poverty Partnership Programme was launched in 1992 in collaboration with UNDP, ILO and UNV with the objective of improving living conditions through the expansion of employment in low-income urban communities in developing countries. Implementation activities have so far covered 4 countries in Africa, 3 countries in Asia, 4 countries in Latin America and 1 country in Eastern Europe.

With the aim of improving the environment planning and management capacity of municipal authorities through city demonstration projects and sharing of know-how between cities in different regions of the world, UNCHS (Habitat) has been implementing the Sustainable Cities Programme.

Another important programme in this area is the Community Development Programme, which has two components, one on training and the other on community management. This programme puts emphasis on community participation in the improvement of human settlements, and employment generation and is being implemented in several countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The Women in Human Settlements Development Programme is another key programme activity within the framework of an integrated approach to population and development as it will not only lead to integration of women in human settlements development, but ultimately into the overall economic and social development process. The Programme aims to ensure that all programmes and projects undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat) clearly reflect gender perspectives.

Population Distribution and Sustainable Development

With regard to the area of population distribution and development, UNCHS (Habitat) is concentrating on two main aspects. The first is improving living and working conditions in rural villages and small urban settlements, firstly for their own sake, and secondly with the hope of achieving a more even geographical distribution of population through the removal of one key push-factor underlying rapid rural-to-urban migration. The second aspect is strengthening rural-urban linkages in order to facilitate economic growth and employment and income-generation in rural areas and small urban settlements.

The most significant push factor underlying rapid rural-to-urban migration in developing countries is rural poverty, and one of the most visible ways in which rural poverty is manifested is poor shelter. In spite of this, most developing countries have yet to formulate and implement coherent and explicit rural shelter policies. A research project which aims at filling the above policy vacuum is currently being undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat). The project is entitled "Guidelines for Rural Shelter Improvement in Developing Countries", and it is building on work previously undertaken by UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with member agencies of the ACC Sub-Committee on Rural Development. The main objective of the project is to develop practical guidelines for the formulation of national rural shelter policies in developing countries, based on lessons from successful rural shelter projects. The resulting technical publication will be released by December 1995.

Rural-urban linkages have traditionally been viewed as consisting of demographic, economic and environmental flows and interconnections. These flows are facilitated by infrastructure networks spanning both rural and urban areas. While these linkages are recognized as being important in stimulating economic production and growth in both rural and urban areas, development planners have generally tended to be either 'pro-rural' or 'pro-urban', with a few in the middle ground holding a 'rural-urban continuum' perspective. To deal with these issues, UNCHS (Habitat) and UNDP are jointly preparing a paper entitled "Rural-Urban Linkages: Policy Guidelines for Rural Development". The main aim of the paper is to explore new policy directions for strengthening rural-urban linkages and for bridging the rural-urban dichotomy, with particular regard to investment policies, and recommend action needed at the national and international levels to do this. These recommendations will constitute an input into the draft Global Plan of Action of the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Over the past two decades, UNCHS (Habitat) has been involved in disaster mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities on a project-by-project basis at the request of national governments, notably in Afghanistan, Angola, Eritrea, Honduras, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Pakistan and Philippines. However, during the last two years there has been a shift in the Centre's approach. This has involved adoption of the 'relief-to-development

continuum' conceptual framework, in line with the entire UN system, and paying greater attention to human-made disasters, in addition to natural disasters. As part of these new developments, a Joint UNCHS (Habitat)-UNEP Task Force on the Relief-to-Development Continuum was formed in 1994 in order to map-out and coordinate future work in this area. UNCHS (Habitat) is also an active member of the Inter-agency Standing Committee on Relief-to-Development Continuum formed in 1993, and, in collaboration with other UN agencies, the Centre intends to intensify its work in this area, especially focusing on returning refugees (returnees) and internally displaced persons.

The Centre's present activities focus on two main areas. The first is assistance with rehabilitation of returnees, including reconstruction of housing, public buildings and infrastructure, and rebuilding of local government institutions. The second area involves assistance with resettlement of persons locally displaced by both natural and human-made disasters, especially wars. Recent activities include a project for assistance with rehabilitation of internally displaced persons in Lebanon. The project, which focused on housing reconstruction, was started in June 1994 and completed in December 1994. Another significant on-going project is 'Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of the City of Kigali and other Urban Centres', which involves the rehabilitation of returning refugees in Rwanda. The project, which was started in January 1995, is being implemented in collaboration with UNEP and with funding from UNDP-managed Dutch trust funds. The project has three main components, namely: provision of new housing for returnees; reconstruction of public buildings; and setting up of a waste management system. A fourth component, public sector management capacity-building, is currently being planned. In addition, a consultative meeting organized by UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa will be held from 5 to 6 June 1995. The consultation will examine two main issues, that is, modalities for reintegration of Rwandan refugees, and the impacts these refugees have had on the surrounding countries.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN (UNIFEM)

The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) recognizes that, "The empowerment and autonomy of women and the improvement of their political, social, economic and health status is a highly important end in itself", and "is essential for the achievement of sustainable development". It further states, "Experience shows that population and development programmes are most effective when steps have simultaneously been taken to improve the status of women".

UNIFEM has identified women's empowerment as having four components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to determine choices; the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change.

Following the ICPD, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) requested that UNIFEM be the lead organization for the Working Group on Women's Empowerment under the Inter-Agency Task Force on the implementation of the ICPD, an important role in the implementation of the post-Cairo Platform for Action.

UNIFEM is convening the first meeting of the Inter-Agency Working Group on Women's Empowerment on 16 May 1995, and will seek to develop proposals to facilitate inter-agency cooperation on gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, with particular emphasis on operational activities at the country level.

The mandate of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), its structure, constituency and twenty years of experience pioneering innovative strategies to further the advancement of women, make it ideally suited to play a significant role in the implementation of the post-Cairo Platform for Action and to operationalize activities for the empowerment of women.

In 1995, the Fund is continuing to work in three key programme areas of strategic importance to women: agriculture, trade and industry, and macro policy and national planning. Initiatives in these areas recognize and address women's needs for access to credit, finance, capital, technology transfer, small business development, training and opportunities for income-generation, and are complemented by technical support. UNIFEM's approach stresses capacity-building, women's empowerment, collaboration with appropriate partners, and region-specific priorities.

An important emphasis of the Fund's work is placed on ways of linking women's development initiatives at the grassroots level with the macro-policy formulation that shapes their future. The comparative advantage of UNIFEM resides at this very intersection of macro-policy and micro-action. UNIFEM has been dedicated building the capacity of local organizations that women themselves create and control. UNIFEM is also supporting governments and regional bodies in their efforts to make their programmes and policies more gender-sensitive. UNIFEM has broken new ground for women's empowerment in its more recent efforts to further a reconceptualization of human rights to include women's rights and to support women's efforts in strengthening the role of civil society.

For example, under its Asia & Pacific Development Strategy (APDEV), UNIFEM provides technical assistance to strengthen national institutions for the integration of women in the mainstream development process. More specifically, technical assistance is geared towards the development of appropriate gender training and advocacy programmes, and the development of gender sensitive statistics. In Africa, food and income security remain the central goal of UNIFEM's Africa Investment Plan, which includes assistance to women's businesses to expand or diversify, and support to the development of credit schemes for productive activities of women. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNIFEM has focused on the immediate well-being of the most vulnerable groups and has worked at the same time to ensure that macro-level agricultural policies take into account the roles women play and the obstacles they face as producers and consumers in the rural economy. UNIFEM's Women's Human Rights Programme continues to promote the principle that the protection of women's human rights is fundamental to ensuring women's self-realization and full participation in the democratization and development of their societies.

UNIFEM's links to the international women's movement and other actors of civil society, as well as governmental and intergovernmental bodies, give the Fund a special role to play in bringing these groups together to work toward the empowerment of women.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

ICPD was held two years after UNCED, and on the way towards the World Summit on Social Development and the 4th Women Conference in Beijing, and in the process of preparation of the Agenda for Development. You might share my views that the issues addressed by ICPD and the other conferences, are many but all strongly focus on "people" as key targets and participants.

Let me share with you UNEP's perception of a few distinct outcomes of the Conference;

a) A clear international understanding of "Reproductive Health Care and Reproductive Rights" emerged.

b) Role, rights and responsibilities of women were clearly recognized. The family was recognized as the basic unit in society.

c) The need for integration of population issues into development process was clearly accepted.

d) Although not much time was accorded to the discussions on the environment related issues, the Programme of Action, which was adopted by the Conference, does contain balanced recommendations on the relationship between environment and population.

e) The Question of funding did not generate a politicized debate in the Conference, and specific figures are included in the Programme of Action. Worthwhile is noting that there was an agreement that one third of the required fund for this implementation of the programme of Action should come from international funding, and two thirds from domestic sources. The so called "20/20 Initiative" was mentioned but referred to the Social Summit without reaching agreement

After the Cairo Conference, in which I personally participated, UNEP has undertaken an overall analysis of the outcome of the Conference. While I would briefly summarize our conclusions, I would state that this analysis was carried out in a period when UNEP was in the process of elaborating its draft 1996 - 97 budget for consideration by the 18th session of the Governing Council (15 - 26 May 1995). Pending the debate and decisions by the Council, the following points will be duly taken into account in our post-GC discussions on the implementation of the work programme for the next biennium.

As far as the possible role of UNEP in the follow-up to Cairo is concerned, chapter III of the Programme of Action, "Interrelationships between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development", and its Section C., "Population and the environment" in particular, requires UNEP's substantive contribution. Important issues raised include; (i) The need of integration of population issues in development policy formulation, capacity building for policy formulation and implementation, and education and awareness promotion, and public participation, (ii) Environmentally sound consumption pattern and trade practices, and (iii) Empowering women. More specifically,

a. Integration of population issues in development policy formulation (Chapter IX deals with specific needs for urban and rural management. -- UNEP's advocacy towards integrated environment-development policy, and its promotion of policy tools are in line with this.

b. Capacity building for policy formulation and implementation. -- Environmental aspects of population-related capacity building should be covered by UNEP.

c. Education and awareness promotion, and public participation. -- UNEP's roles in the context of environmental education and raising awareness for mobilization of public actions are obvious.

d. Environmentally sound consumption patterns and trade practices. -- UNEP has a number of activities in this field, as reported to the CSD.

e. Empowering women. -- UNEP recently convened an International Seminar on Gender and Environment, and is in a process of operationalizing its gender actions. UNEP has made a major constitution to the African regional preparation to the Beijing Conference and planning to make a substantive contribution to Beijing.

Furthermore, Chapter XII of the Programme of Action, which deals with "Technology, research and development" contains several areas where UNEP has comparative strength. They are;

a. Scientific analysis of population-environment nexus -- On the occasion of the World Summit for Social Development, UNEP published a report, entitled "Poverty and the Environment: reconciling short-term needs and long-term sustainable development goals". The document stresses the importance of investment in human capital, and calls for improvements in nutrition, health care, education, land tenure and in the status of women.

b. Analysis, dissemination and use of population-environment information. Use of geological information system (GIS) is highly relevant in this context.

c. Information network. UNEP's INFOTERRA could have a contributing role in this.

In conclusion, in following-up to Cairo, UNEP would endeavour to play its role as a scientific environmental advocater, generator and provider of information, adviser on policy tools and mobilizer of environmental actions.

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Mandates

The success and achievement of the Cairo Conference were due in large measure to the active involvement of national governments as well as of the non-governmental sector at all stages of the preparatory process. The success in implementing the Programme of Action will also depend on the commitment and the participation of national Governments, local communities, the non-governmental sector and the international community.

Taking note of the significant contribution made by activities undertaken at the subregional and regional levels during the preparatory process of the International Conference on Population and Development, the ICPD Programme of Action calls on the United Nations regional commissions along with other organizations functioning at the regional level to play an active role in the implementation of the regional declarations on population and the Programme of Action at the regional and subregional levels through regional initiatives on population and development. These initiatives shall include establishing or strengthening regional follow-up mechanisms; promoting cooperation in the critical areas of capacity building, the sharing and exchange of information, experiences, know-how, and technical expertise, and the promotion of data collection, analysis and research conducive to policy making along with the dissemination and utilization of research findings. In addition, the Programme of Action invites all international organizations, both regional and global, to provide interested governments as part of the ICPD follow-up and capacity building, with assistance related to project and programme formulation, management, monitoring and evaluation.

The mandate of ECE in population has been additionally expanded by the Programme of Action, which recognizes that countries with economies in transition should receive temporary assistance for population and development activities in the light of the difficult economic and social problems they face at present. In response to this request and in compliance with the regional priority areas and actions identified at the 1993 European Population Conference (fertility, status of women and the family, health and mortality, population growth and structure, international migration, international cooperation and generation of policy relevant knowledge) the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Europe has taken a number of initiatives based on the conclusions of the Consultative Meeting of Countries with Economies in Transition on the International Conference on Population and Development held in 1994 in Budapest, Hungary.

Initiatives

Within the framework of its research activities in the field of population, ECE is expanding technical backstopping to countries in transition with the overall objective to promote the generation and utilization of policy-relevant knowledge as well as to build bridges between the main areas of concern in the social field in the ECE region: social integration and protection, the status of women and population trends. Assistance is provided in collection, processing and analysis of information required to study social and demographic processes as well as for policy formulation and evaluation in three areas: fertility and the family, population ageing and the status of older persons and international migration. Among the specific activities that are supported by ECE are a more systematic use of existing sources of population statistics for research and policy analysis, use and dissemination of social and gender relevant information, such as depersonalized data at the individual and household levels, and technical support to nationwide specialized sample surveys and related analysis.

ECE also offers the service of a regional adviser for population and development to countries in transition to help in the initial phase of the implementation of the ICPD

Programme of Action, particularly in establishing national follow-up committees. Advisory services in this area encompasse priority setting, needs assessment for assistance, project formulation, and the development of national information databases. In this endeavour, ECE strongly supports partnership between the governmental sector, the scientific community and the non-governmental organization through various initiatives such as the organization of workshops. In compliance with the provisions of the Programme of Action, ECE also advocates the development of national consolidated reporting systems taking into account relevant United Nations conferences having national requirements.

At the regional level, and in view of the similarity of problems faced by many countries in the region, ECE has taken the initiative to promote the idea of a coordinating mechanism that would allow governments to address regional and subregional issues related to the follow-up. In addition, ECE is considering establishing a regional component of the global population network, POPIN, on the Internet with the primary objective of facilitating access to and exchange of population related information to the widest audience in the region, including officials and organizations participating in the follow-up to the ICPD and the 1993 Eureopean Population Conference

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION

1. Background

1.1 The ILO, through its Labour and Population Programme, participated fully in all the preparatory work and arrangements for the Conference. The Organization was represented at all the pre-Conference technical meetings at which ILO officials presented technical papers on issues of relevance to population and ILO concerns. It was also represented at all the three conference preparatory committee (PREPCOM) meetings.

1.2 At the Conference itself, the ILO was represented at the highest level possible, by Mrs. Mary Chinery-Hesse, Deputy Director-General, assisted by three other senior officials. The ILO issued for distribution at the conference a special booklet "Employment and Population: An Inseparable Duo" in English, French and Spanish. The ILO also issued, jointly with the United Nations High Commissionner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), another special booklet "Migrants, Refugees and International Cooperation", also in the three languages, for distribution at the conference.

1.3 A formal report on the Conference was made to the ILO Governing Body at its 261st session in November 1994. The report was discussed by the Committee on Employment and Social Policy whose Chairman stressed the convergence between many of the areas emphasized by the Conference's Programme of Action and those of ILO action. Both the Worker Vice-Chairman and Employer Vice-Chairman complimented the Office on the report and welcomed the various initiatives taken to disseminate the views of the Office on employment, population and migration. The Employer Vice-Chairman also welcomed the emphasis placed by the Conference on the role and condition of women, and advised that the Conference material might be useful to ILO's work on women. The Worker Vice-Chairman mentioned that the Workers' Group would like to see greater use of the potential of the workplace for education and the dissemination of information on population-related issues, including family planning.

2. Follow-up Activities

2.1 Follow-up activities started immediately after the Conference. In cooperation with UNFPA, the ILO organized a technical workshop in Geneva on Population Policy and Development Planning Strategies, from 26 October to 1 November 1994. This was attended by all regional advisers (both ILO and non-ILO) in Population and Development Policy, and Women, Population and Development who are serving in the UNFPA Country Support Teams (CSTs) in the field, selected population project experts, and ILO headquarters population staff.

Resource persons included ILO colleagues from such departments, branches, and units as EMPLOI, E/MIGRANT, E/STRAT, FEMMES, INST, etc. In addition to technical matters, issues discussed included inter-agency approaches to post-conference activities. Prior to the workshop, the ILO population staff (headquarters and field) held two-day consultations to discuss issues of common interest including modalities for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. What was stressed was the need to adopt a programme approach to population and development issues in view of the complex interrelationships between population and development. To assist in strengthening national capacity for work in population and development, the following, inter alia, were recommended:

— organisation of technical and training workshops,
— development of training materials for use by national institutions, UNFPA's Country Support Teams (CSTs) and ILO's Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs),
— development of policy advisory packages for use by CSTs and MDTs,
— delevery of technical advisory services to member states, etc.

2.2 In accordance with its strategy of strengthening national capacity in population and related fields as one of its follow-up activities, the ILO intends to use its tripartite structure, competitive edge and comparative advantage. In this respect, a tripartite workshop was organized by ILO in Kampala, Uganda from 29 November to 3 December 1994, on the role of the organized sector in reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention. Reproductive health and the HIV/AIDS pandemic had received considerable attention at the ICPD, and the programme of action calls for concerted national and international action to combat the pandemic and safeguard reproductive health. The workshop, attended by tripartite delegations from English-speaking Africa, made a number of very good and decisive recommendations for national action in this respect. The huge success of this workshop has generated considerable interest in Francophone Africa, with a request for a similar workshop later in the year for French-speaking African countries.

2.3 Similarly, the ILO is currently preparing for a workshop with the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) on the role of trade unions in Africa in the formulation and implementation of national population policies and programmes. This is to be held in Accra, Ghana on 16-18 May 1995, for senior representatives of all trade unions in Africa. The workshop is expected to sensitize the participants to population and development issues, raise their knowledge of population and development interrelationships, and improve the ability of union leaders to participate in the population and development dialogue and policy formulation and implementation in their countries.

3. Inter-Agency Task Force

3.1 The ILO continues to play its part in inter-agency cooperation and activities. The Organization has so far participated in all inter-agency meetings on the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. The first such meeting took place in New York on 13 December 1994 at which a call was made for strong inter-agency coordination and cooperation for the mobilisation of resources and delivery of technical assistance. A number of working groups was set up to facilitate the work of the Task Force, which was to focus on **policy development, coordination and monitoring** of progress made in inter-agency coordination.

3.2 The next inter-agency meeting, also attended by the ILO in New York on 3 March 1995, was on the report on international migration and development. That meeting explored, inter alia, the need and possibilities for holding an international conference on international migration in 1997.

3.3 Furthermore, the ILO also participated in the inter-agency task force meeting on basic education, with special attention to gender disparities. This was held at UNESCO, Paris on 7 March 1995, and participants proposed a set of terms of reference (TOR) to guide the UNDP Resident Coordinator in coordinating programmes and activities in basic education at the country level.

3.4 Many more such meetings are in the pipeline, and the ILO itends to participate and contribute to the deliberations.

4. Problems

4.1 The few problems encountered relate to resources and modalities. ILO's Labour and Population programme is almost entirely funded by the UNFPA. This programme, which is the focal point for the follow-up activities to the ICPD, is therefore constrained to engage fully in ad hoc activities that have not been budgetted for. In fact, no special allocation has been made by the UNFPA or the ILO for any activities in respect of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Consequently, the current limited resources available to the programme have to be stretched to cover some of these follow-up activities. However, for the training workshops (like the one held in Uganda and the one proposed for OATUU in May) special allocations are sought from UNFPA.

4.2 Furthermore, because of differences in agency mandates, concerns and approaches - as to population and development issues, as well as time allocation, these inter-agency activities (especially meetings) do not appear to be well coordinated. For example, meetings are usually called at short notice, and for agencies based outside the US, one-day meetings in New York are not that cost-effective.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

1. This report has been prepared in response to Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) decision 1995/213 of 10 February 1995, in which the Council decided, inter alia, that the principal theme to be considered during the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment would be the implementation by the United Nations system of the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The Council further invited relevant specialized agencies and related organizations of the United Nations system to prepare background information on the principal theme chosen.

UNFPA

2. The ICPD and its Programme of Action will have a profound effect on the work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In the months since the Cairo conference, translating the Programme of Action into reality has been of critical urgency to the Fund in all of its activities. In order to undertake the task of coordinating UNFPA's own follow-up to the ICPD, the Executive Director established a UNFPA Task Force on ICPD Implementation that became operational on 3 January 1995. In its initial phase of its work programme, the Task Force has been concerned with inter-agency follow-up and coordination, as well as monitoring intergovernmental initiatives in the aftermath of the Cairo Conference. The Task Force further provides secretariat support to the Executive Director of UNFPA in the tasks undertaken by UNFPA related to the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

3. UNFPA has embarked on a number of technical reviews and consultations following the ICPD. An important first step in carrying out the Programme of Action was the series of follow-up consultations held at UNFPA headquarters immediately after the ICPD for the Africa, Arab States, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern European and CIS regions. These consultations were extremely valuable in providing insights on the differing needs of various countries and regions and in producing practical suggestions for future work.

4. UNFPA is currently reviewing its country programmes in order to align them more closely with the basic principles of the Programme of Action, and field staff are working with governments in reviewing national population policies to ensure that such policies reflect the priorities agreed to at the ICPD. The Fund is also in the process of reviewing its policy guidelines in the areas of reproductive health and family planning; information, education and communication; gender, population and development; population and sustainable development; and collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

5. Because of the centrality of the concept of fostering a holistic approach to reproductive health, one of the first initiatives in defining new policy guidelines was the convening of an "Expert Consultation on Reproductive Health and Family Planning: Directions for UNFPA Assistance". The participants at this conference focused on ways that UNFPA could increase its emphasis, inter alia, on sexual health and sexual rights, male responsibility for family planning,

providing reproductive health information and services to adolescents, prevention of female genital mutilation, quality assurance and programme monitoring, and advocacy in support of reproductive health.

6. UNFPA also convened a series of joint workshops with partner agencies in the United Nations development system to examine how best to carry out the Programme of Action at the country and local levels. These workshops focused on key areas of the Fund's programme -- reproductive health and family planning (with WHO); information, education and communication (with UNESCO and WHO); and population data, policy and research (with ILO). The workshops involved advisers from UNFPA's Technical Support Services/Country Support Team system, including specialists from the respective United Nations agencies and organizations.

7. The Executive Director convened a UNFPA management retreat in February 1995 with the overall theme of "A Time for Change". Participants discussed, inter alia, what the mission of UNFPA should be for the next 10 years; what was UNFPA's comparative advantage vis-a-vis other actors in the population field; how to focus UNFPA's programme on fewer substantive sectors and its limited resources on the countries most in need; and how to collaborate better with others in the United Nations system as well as with bilateral and non-governmental organizations.

8. From 5 to 6 April 1995, the UNFPA Panel on Gender, Population and Development met for the fifth time to discuss UNFPA's future directions in the area of gender and population, taking into account the outcome of ICPD. Furthermore, UNFPA decided to establish an NGO Advisory Committee to advise UNFPA on various aspects of its policies and programming. The first meeting of this Committee was held on 12 and 13 April at UNFPA Headquarters. The participants recommended that UNFPA, inter alia, strengthen its partnerships with the non-governmental and private sector at the country level and use its position as a convener to bring Governments and non-governmental organizations together in their common efforts to implement the ICPD Programme of Action.

Governance

9. The UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board has met twice (6-10 October 1994; 10-13 January 1995) to discuss, inter alia, the follow-up to ICPD. At the January 1995 session, UNFPA presented an interim report which outlined, in a preliminary manner, its programme directions in light of the Cairo Conference (document DP/1995/8). Based on the comments received in the Executive Board and on further consultations with its United Nations system partners and informal consultations with members of the Executive Board , the Fund will present to the annual meeting of the Executive Board (June 1995), a report on "Programme priorities and future directions of UNFPA in light of the International Conference on Population and Development" (document DP/1995/25).

10. In its report to the Executive Board, UNFPA proposes to concentrate its future funding in three core areas: (a) reproductive health and family planning; (b) population policy; and (c) advocacy. Gender concerns will be integral components of all aspects of UNFPA programming and will be factored into all activities undertaken in the three core areas as a "cross-cutting" dimension. The selection of these three programme areas will enable UNFPA to sharpen the strategic focus of its

programming and to capitalize on its comparative advantage and experience in the field of population and development.

11. The ICPD also addressed the issue of governance of UNFPA. Paragraph 16.27 of the ICPD Programme of Action invites the General Assembly to consider at its forty-ninth session, and in accordance with its resolution 48/162, the establishment of a separate Executive Board for UNFPA. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, has, in turn, requested "the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1995, to consider the establishment of a separate executive board of the United Nations Population Fund" (General Assembly resolution 49/128, para. 28 (a)).

Inter-agency follow-up

12. On behalf of the Secretary-General and at the request of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Executive Director of UNFPA convened and chaired the first meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action on 13 December 1994. The overall aim of this Task Force is to develop a United Nations system-wide coordinated approach for the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action.

13. During the first Inter-Agency Task Force meeting, it was decided to use working groups for inter-agency collaboration at the country level in the following areas: (a) a common data system at the national level in the field of health, notably in the areas of infant, child and maternal mortality; (b) basic education, with special attention to gender disparities; (c) policy-related issues, including the drafting of a common advocacy statement on social issues; and (d) women's empowerment. A fifth working group, on reproductive health, will be established in response to suggestions made by a number of United Nations agencies, with WHO as the lead agency.

14. The first of these inter-agency working groups, the one on basic education, was convened on 7 March 1995 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The working group on policy-related issues, including the drafting of a common advocacy statement on social issues, was convened on 3 May 1995, with UNFPA as the lead agency for this topic. The working group on a common data system at the national level in the field of health, notably in the areas of infant, child and maternal mortality, was held on 4 May 1995, with UNICEF as the lead agency. The working group on women's empowerment is planned for 16 May 1995, with UNIFEM as the lead agency. A second meeting of the Inter-Agency Task Force is anticipated for June/July 1995, at which time it will review the progress made and further specify its programme of work, taking into account major topics of interest and themes identified in various United Nations bodies.

15. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) held its first regular meeting in February/March 1995 to discuss the implications of the ICPD. It underscored the importance of shared responsibility within the United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the need for coordination among United Nations agencies and organizations at the country level, through the Resident Coordinator system and the country strategy notes. In view of the importance of devising a coordinated response, the ACC welcomed in its statement the

convening of an inter-agency mechanism, with UNFPA as the lead agency, with the objectives of policy development, coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action by the United Nations system. The ACC also called for increased cooperation and coordination with NGOs.

16. To achieve the goals of the ICPD it will be necessary to mobilize resources from Governments and NGOs. At the request of the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNFPA convened a consultation on resource mobilization on 20 January 1995, which made several valuable suggestions. The participants discussed the usefulness of high-level meetings in the mobilization of resources. The participants suggested using existing mechanisms at the country level, such as the Resident Coordinator system, the World Bank Consultative Groups and the Roundtables of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for the purpose of mobilizing country-specific resources. It was agreed that global consultations on this topic need to be convened periodically, preferably at the time of the annual sessions of the Commission on Population and Development.

17. The implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action is the responsibility of all parties involved in the Cairo process -- Governments, the United Nations system, NGOs. UNFPA will work closely with Governments, other United Nations agencies and organizations, multilateral and bilateral organizations, and with NGOs in achieving the goals of the Programme of Action and in making sure that population and gender concerns are firmly placed at the centre of the development debate and activities, the aim of which is to improve the well-being of all people.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

1. The ICPD Programme of Action called upon all specialized agencies of the UN system to "strengthen and adjust their activities, programmes and medium-term strategies, as appropriate, to take into account the follow-up to the Conference". General Assembly resolution A49/128 in paragraph 22 requested "the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action and take appropriate measures to ensure its full and effective implementation, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries" and invited them "to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995 for coordination purposes and to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session for policy implications". This report summarizes WHO's work in this area.

2. The mandate of the World Health Organization (WHO) is "directing and coordinating authority on international health work"[1] [2]. WHO defines its responsibility in follow-up to the Conference as directing and coordinating all health-related aspects of the Conference. Accordingly, WHO will promote global advocacy for reproductive health[3], including an enabling environment, and allocation of resources for reproductive health. WHO has a unique role to play in providing policy guidance and technical support for the implementation

---

[1] WHO constitution

[2] Joint letter WHO/UNICEF/UNFPA/UNDP (1991)

[3] Reproductive health is defined in the ICPD Programme of Action as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health therefore implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so. Implicit in this last condition are the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for regulation of fertility which are not against the law, and the right of access to appropriate health-care services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and childbirth and provide couples with the best chance of having a healthy infant. In line with the above definition of reproductive health, reproductive health care is defined as the constellation of methods, techniques and services that contribute to reproductive health and well-being through preventing and solving reproductive health problems. It also includes sexual health, the purpose of which is the enhancement of life and personal relations, and not merely counselling and care related to reproduction and sexually transmitted diseases. (ICPD, paragraph 7.2)

of national reproductive health programmes in primary health care[4].

3. Reproductive health deals with highly personal aspects of life, and social and cultural barriers often inhibit open discussion of the topic. Reproductive health has an impact on individuals, families and generations to come. Reproductive health, like most health issues, affects, and is affected by, the broader context of people's lives, including their economic circumstances, education, employment, living conditions and family environment, social, in particular, gender relationships, and the traditional and legal structures within which they live. Nonetheless, reproductive health cannot be significantly improved in the absence of health services and medical knowledge and skills.

4. The global magnitude of reproductive ill-health is enormous. Some 500,000 women die each year from pregnancy or childbirth, while another 20 million suffer severe morbidity and disability due to complications of childbearing - 90% of whom are in developing countries. Between 60 and 80 million couples who wish to have children are unable to do so because of infertility, while the estimate of couples with unmet family planning needs is 120 million. An estimated 20 million women resort to unsafe abortion each year. In addition to the 250 million people infected each year with curable sexually transmitted diseases, another 20 million have been infected with HIV, which leads to AIDS.

5. Reproductive health continues to elude many of the world's people because of factors such as inadequate levels of knowledge about human sexuality; inappropriate, poor-quality or inaccessible reproductive health information and services; and the limited choices many women and girls have in their lives. The attainment of good reproductive health requires equity between the sexes, accessible and acceptable quality services and technologies, and the participation of other sectors.

6. The World Health Assembly recognized the public health importance and social and economic consequences of different aspects of reproductive health as early as 1965[5] and has regularly expanded and developed programmes accordingly. WHO, through its research, normative and technical cooperation roles, has more than 30 years of accumulated experience and expertise in reproductive health issues. As a response to follow-up of ICPD, WHO has

---

[4] The relevant reproductive health targets in WHO's Ninth General Programme of Work include the following: disability-free life expectancy at birth for women will increase by 15% in all populations: the maternal mortality rate will be reduced by 50%; all pregnant women will have access to prenatal care, trained attendants during childbirth and referral facilities for high-risk pregnancies and obstetrical emergencies; the prevalence rate for iron deficiency anaemia in women (aged 15-49 years) will be reduced by 33%; the proportion of low birth weight (less than 2.5 kg) will be reduced to less than 10%; neonatal tetanus will be eliminated (the incidence rate will be less than one case per 1000 live births in all districts); all individuals and couples will have access to information and services to prevent pregnancies that are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many; and the proportion of those seeking care in health services for STDs who are appropriately examined and treated will be at least 70%.

[5] Resolution WHA18.49

increased its regular budget resources for reproductive health, and has begun the process of consolidating and accelerating activities in order to operationalize an integrated reproductive health approach.

7. In January 1995, WHO's Executive Board reviewed a report from the Director-General on "A conceptual and strategic framework for reproductive health", and passed a resolution (EB95.R10) and requested the Director-General "to incorporate this framework in a comprehensive, unifying strategy for action and research in reproductive health" and submit his report to the 48th World Health Assembly and the 97th session of the Executive Board on "the measures taken for the implementation of the strategy at national, regional and global levels"[6].

8. In response to resolution EB95.R10, and as part of an ongoing consultative process, WHO convened a major meeting in March 1995, with participation from a wide variety of partners, including other UN system agencies, in particular UNFPA and UNICEF; representatives from governments in all WHO regions; donor agencies; international experts, women's health groups, youth groups and other non-governmental organizations; and representatives from the scientific and professional community. The objective of the meeting was to discuss with all the partners and have their input on the proposed global strategy for reproductive health and to present WHO's role within such a strategy. The outcome of this meeting was incorporated into the Director-General's report to the Forty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 1995[7].

9. At its May 1995 meeting, the World Health Assembly endorsed the Director-General's report on "Reproductive health: WHO's role in the global strategy" and adopted a resolution reaffirming the unique role of WHO with respect to advocacy, normative functions, research and technical cooperation in the area of reproductive health. The Assembly also underlined the need to coordinate with other agencies of the United Nations system to provide international support for the development and implementation of reproductive health strategies in countries. Resolution WHA 48/10 also urged Member States to further develop and strengthen their reproductive health programmes based on the principles elaborated in the ICPD Programme of Action, and in particular through assessments of their needs, improving the content and methods of training, and monitoring and evaluating progress as part of the on-going monitoring of the health-for-all strategies. It requested the Director-General to include the progress made in reproductive health in his regular reporting of the progress of health-for-all strategies and to continue his efforts to increase the resources for strengthening reproductive health in the context of primary health care[8].

10. The focus and orientation of WHO's activities in reproductive health have shifted over time in response to increased knowledge about reproductive health needs and how best to

---

[6] EB95/R10

[7] WHA document A48/10

[8] Resolution WHA 48/10

meet them. It has recognized the need for an integrated approach to reproductive health information and services in the context of primary health care; the importance of the participation of people for whom the services are intended, especially women and young people, to help plan, implement, monitor and evaluate programmes; the development of new technologies to help meet these objectives; and the essential partnership between government and non-governmental bodies.

11. While ICPD defined the scope of reproductive health in primary health care, but the implications for programmes were not elaborated so that national authorities could immediately modify and reorient programmes to meet this challenge. WHO is working to provide countries with concrete technical and policy guidance on reproductive health programme planning and implementation of programmes in countries, and on the areas and means in which the health sector must work with other sectors in order to achieve reproductive health.

12. WHO views reproductive health, as a broad concept which cuts across many different programmes. WHO is undertaking specific activities to operationalize the integrated approach which is key to achieving good reproductive health. WHO has developed innovative methodologies for countries to assess national and district-level reproductive health needs, as a first step towards identifying gaps and research issues, reorienting policies and developing a national plan of research and action for implementing reproductive health programmes. It is supporting the development of national and sub-regional networks for sharing experiences and ideas on an integrated approach to reproductive health programme development. WHO is also providing technical support to countries for training health workers to address, the reproductive health needs of different constituencies. WHO is assisting countries in monitoring and evaluating reproductive health programmes, and will continue to evaluate global progress towards reproductive health goals.

13. A specific example of WHO's normative work which is representative of the integrated approach of reproductive health is the "Mother-Baby Package", which WHO has developed as a practical tool to guide countries in planning and implementing programmes to reduce both maternal and newborn morbidity and mortality. The Mother-Baby Package focuses on several closely linked aspects of reproductive health care including prevention and management of sexually transmitted diseases, family planning, and maternity and neonatal care.

14. WHO's adolescent health programme has developed methodologies for planning action, behavioural research, training and evaluati... which have also been used by other agencies and governments to assess and act upon reproductive and other health needs common to adolescents around the world. WHO is working to eliminate harmful traditional practices which affect the health of women and girls[9] and is developing technical guidelines describing different types of female genital mutilation and prototype protocols for research and evaluation of interventions in this area. Refugees are particularly vulnerable to reproductive health problems and WHO is working with other agencies and many NGO's, on a reproductive health guidance manual for field workers working with refugees, to be

[9] WHA47.10

followed by more detailed guidelines, developed by WHO.

15. In the area of family planning, WHO works very closely with UNFPA to provide technical guidance to countries. WHO produces, on a regular basis, technical guidelines on specific methods of family planning, as well as on programmatic issues such as community distribution of contraceptives. As part of an overall effort to improve the quality of family planning services, WHO, with support from UNFPA and other agencies is undertaking a review of the safety of all family planning methods in order that prescribing practices are scientifically sound and that there are no unnecessary medical barriers in their provision. WHO is supporting operations research on the feasibility and appropriateness of integrating the management of reproductive tract infections, including sexually transmitted diseases, into family planning programmes, and is evaluating different models of prevention and management of reproductive tract cancers, such as simple methods of screening for cervical cancer. WHO is also working to incorporate emerging issues such as violence to women and children into reproductive health programmes and is supporting research on optimal ways to integrate family planning and STD services, and management of reproductive tract infections and gynaecological cancers in primary health care.

16. One of WHO's main roles is that of research and development. WHO has been reorienting its research priorities and approaches to reproductive health to identify the best means of building on existing programmes and services to operationalize comprehensive reproductive health programmes, and to ensure that cross-cutting issues such as sexual behaviour and women's perspectives are included in setting research priorities and in designing specific projects. WHO promotes approaches that are sustainable and cost-effective using appropriate technologies such as the syndromic approach to the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. This approach involves a simple flow chart for diagnosis and treatment that can be used by minimally-trained health personnel and does not rely on laboratory equipment.

17. WHO participates actively in the Interagency Task Force on Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, including the associated Working Groups on Policy, on Tracking Maternal and Child Mortality, and on Empowerment of Women, and is the lead agency for the Working Group on Reproductive Health. These groups provide an important forum for interagency collaboration and joint planning and implementation, especially at the country level.

18. WHO will continue its work in reproductive health in the areas of information and advocacy; strategic and policy guidance, including the setting of norms and standards; technical cooperation with countries to implement policies and programmes; monitoring and evaluation; and research and technology development. In all of these areas WHO will work closely with its partners, in particular other UN system agencies, to help ensure a coordinated and coherent UN system response to the call for action at ICPD. WHO will continue to maintain and expand accessibility to its databases on the many aspects of reproductive health, such as those on maternal, neonatal and perinatal mortality, maternal morbidity and nutrition, infertility, unsafe abortion and reproductive health of adolescents.

19. Specific areas that will receive particular attention include advocacy at the international, national and local levels on the concept of reproductive health and its priority

as a health and human development issue; advocacy for greater attention to ethical issues; a focus on the role of gender equity in reproductive health including the underserved needs of women, and men's roles and responsibilities in achieving reproductive health; the particular needs of young people; the interrelationship between reproductive health and other public health issues such as nutrition, malaria and tuberculosis; helping countries identify priorities for research; operational research needed to better advise countries on optimal implementation of reproductive health programmes; research on appropriate technologies and their use in various settings; and the development of indicators to better track progress towards achieving reproductive health. In providing technical cooperation with countries, WHO will promote an integrated approach to assessing needs, helping countries to identify priorities and implement plans of action that achieve functional integration of reproductive health services by building on existing structures and services, and strengthening linkages.

20. Finally, WHO fully recognizes that achieving reproductive health requires concerted effort on the part of the countries and their partners, sustained over the long term, and with sufficient commitment and resources at all levels. Reproductive health is a development issue as well as a health issue, and can be achieved only through a combination of progress in economic development, gender equity, full respect for human rights, and vastly strengthened and improved health services for all.

世界衛生組織執行委員會 決議
قرار المجلس التنفيذي لمنظمة الصحة العالمية
RESOLUTION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WHO
RÉSOLUTION DU CONSEIL EXÉCUTIF DE L'OMS
РЕЗОЛЮЦИЯ ИСПОЛНИТЕЛЬНОГО КОМИТЕТА ВОЗ
RESOLUCION DEL CONSEJO EJECUTIVO DE LA OMS

Ninety-fifth Session EB95.R10

Agenda item 12.6 26 January 1995

Maternal and child health and family planning: quality of care

A conceptual and strategic framework for reproductive health

The Executive Board,

Noting the report by the Director-General[1] on maternal and child health and family planning: quality of care - A conceptual and strategic framework for reproductive health;

Recalling resolutions WHA32.42, WHA38.22, WHA40.27, WHA41.9, WHA42.42, WHA43.10 and WHA47.9 concerned with many different aspects of reproductive health;

Welcoming the Director-General's report on collaboration within the United Nations system: International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, September 1994),[2] and in particular the programme of action and WHO position paper on health, population and development, for the Conference;

Noting United Nations General Assembly resolution 49/128, on the report of the International Conference on Population and Development, particularly operative paragraph 22 which requests the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and where necessary adjust their programme and activities in line with the programme of action;

Recognizing that, as a central component of women's health, reproductive health needs to be promoted by WHO at the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and other international fora,

1. REAFFIRMS the unique role of the Organization in international coordination with respect to normative functions, research, and technical cooperation in the area of reproductive health;

2. UNDERLINES the need for close collaboration with other agencies of the United Nations system to provide international support for the broader purposes of reproductive health;

3. ENDORSES the conceptual and strategic framework for reproductive health, in the context of primary health care including family health;

---

[1] Document EB95/28.

[2] Document EB95/49.

4. REQUESTS the Director-General to:

(1) incorporate this framework in a comprehensive, unifying strategy for action and research in reproductive health and submit his report to the Forty-eighth World Health Assembly;

(2) report to the ninety-seventh session of the Executive Board and the Forty-ninth World Health Assembly on the measures taken for the implementation of the strategy for reproductive health at national, regional and global levels;

(3) report to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations on the continued high priority given by WHO in the area of reproductive health at all levels in response to United Nations General Assembly resolution UNGA49/128.

Thirteenth meeting, 26 January 1995
EB95/SR/13

= = =

OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

1. UNHCR's follow-up activities to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) have centred on addressing reproductive health (RH) issues in refugee situations. In addition, an inventory has been made of UNHCR-funded projects to identify the educational needs of refugee girls.

(a) **Reproductive health**

2. The traditional approach to reproductive health needs in refugee situations has been mainly through mother and child healthcare programmes which focus on reducing infant and child mortality. While in the past refugee reproductive health needs were either not fully addressed, for socio-cultural reasons, or were overshadowed by competing demands in other life-saving sectors, in recent years increasing concern over the number of unwanted and/or unplanned pregnancies has brought to the fore the issue of family planning and other related activities. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS, and widespread rape in armed conflict have added new dimensions to the reproductive health needs of refugees. The ICPD recognized the holistic nature of female reproductive health needs in its conclusions, which expanded the definition of RH to include the "...state of complete physical, mental and social well-being". The conference also addressed the need for inter-agency cooperation to fill the service and resource gap and to harmonize technical approaches in implementing RH programmes in refugee situations.

3. This new consensus on reproductive health provided UNHCR with a fresh and expanded opportunity to combine expertise and coordinate activities with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations on RH services in refugee settings. A joint venture was launched initially with UNFPA (following their policy on RH service coverage in refugee settings) to undertake a preliminary survey of reproductive health needs and services among refugee populations. The survey revealed crucial unmet needs in the area of reproductive health of young adolescents and victims of violence and trauma. Health service providers in the field further signalled the need to develop technical guidelines on RH to help identify target populations and design appropriate measures for intervention.

4. As a further follow-up to the recommendation of the ICPD, and as a result of the survey on RH needs, an inter-agency working group has been established to prepare the first-draft technical field guidance manual for standardizing a technical approach to RH needs. The draft manual will be reviewed at the June 1995 symposium on reproductive health.

5. In addition to raising awareness of the special needs and rights of refugees to reproductive health, the following projects have been developed, strengthened or are in process:

Zaire: UNHCR appointed an RH coordinator to assess the specific and unmet needs of the refugee population and design, facilitate and monitor RH project implementation.

Kenya: UNFPA/UNHCR are identifying special programmes for minors and adolescents through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. The project will focus on providing training, community health and income-generating activities.

UNHCR, through the Council of Churches of Kenya and with the technical support of Family Care International, has initiated an RH project in the various refugee camps in Kenya, the primary objective of which is to meet both the immediate and long-term health needs of refugees while at the same time increasing awareness, improving knowledge and changing behaviour.

Mexico: A project to meet a target population of 3,000 female refugees of reproductive age was developed in Chiapas along with an outreach programme which focused on a female-to-female service to cover the needs of women of all ages.

The United Republic of Tanzania: A comprehensive and integrated RH project has been developed and is being implemented in refugee camps in Karagwe district.

6. While efforts are still underway to develop systematic, multifaceted and integrated RH programmes in refugee settings, vertical programmes continue to address specific needs as and when identified. Specific projects such as the STD/HIV/AIDS pilot project in Ethiopia, psychiatric and social counselling of victims of violence in Croatia, and training of traditional birth attendants in the Sudan continue to meet the manifested needs of targeted populations.

(b) Provision of Universal Access to Education, Particularly for Girls

7. An inventory of UNHCR-funded education programmes in Third World countries revealed that about 500,000 refugee children attended schools, of which close to 165,000, or 33 per cent, were girls. Cultural factors were found to heavily affect education of girls, and in some populations, participation of girls was as low as 7 per cent, despite the opportunities for much higher participation levels. Other factors which affected education of girls were given as: the need for girls' help in the home, lack of adequate clothing, and concerns over possible teenage pregnancies. Even in cases where the participation of girls had been high at the early grades, drop-out rates proved much higher than for boys.

8. The information obtained from the inventory will be used to address identified problems in planning UNHCR education programmes. Greater attention will also be paid to adult training for women.

9. In terms of inter-agency coordination in the field of education, UNHCR, UNESCO and UNICEF have embarked jointly on education programmes for Rwandese refugees in the Great Lakes Region of Africa.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

UNESCO, as an organization dedicated to the development of co-operation in the fields of education, sciences, culture and communication , will participate fully in the efforts to implement the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development, working in close collaboration with the Member States and in co-operation with other agencies and UNFPA.

In the current biennium (1994-1995) UNESCO activities in the field of population and related areas are directed by Resolution 27.1.1 adopted by the General Conference at its November 1993 Session which put special emphasis on integrated approaches to the interlinked issues of population, development and environment.

The Programme of Action which emerged from the International Conference on Population and Development carries far-reaching proposals in high priority areas for UNESCO. The Organization also welcomes para.10 of General Assembly Resolution 49/128 which invites the specialized agencies to undertake the actions required to give full and effective support to the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. In fact, both the forthcoming draft Medium-Term Strategy of UNESCO for 1997-2001 and its next draft biennial Programme and Budget (1996-1997), if approved by the General Conference at its forthcoming twenty-eighth Session (November 1995), will include activities for the follow-up to the ICPD Programme of Action, in particular in the areas of education; the empowerment of women; population, development and the environment; population information, education and communication (IEC) and international migration.

Education, Population and Development

As indicated in the Cairo Programme of Action education is a crucial factor of development and of social and demographic change. UNESCO will continue to place "Education for All" at the forefront of its contribution to development (in partnership with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank) promoting further "lifelong education for all". Educational opportunities will need to be expanded and programmes adapted to the particular needs and circumstances of each society. The

first thrust of UNESCO's programme on education thus focuses on fostering basic education for all. In expanding access to basic education, UNESCO will strengthen projects reaching out as a first priority to girls and women, especially in rural areas, as they form the largest single group of excluded people. Priority will continue to be given to the nine high-population developing countries which account for just over half of the planet's population, with 72 per cent of the world's illiterates and over 50 per cent of its out-of-school children. Special attention will also be given to other countries with high illiteracy rates or major obstacles to expanding educational access, such as the least-developed countries and sub-Saharan Africa.

Intended to make "life-long education" a reality, projects will be directed towards renewing and diversifying education systems as a whole. This involves the diversification and expansion of structures and a better linkage between general and vocational education, so as to prepare young people for the world of work, and for more active participation in civic life. It also implies the development of alternative educational opportunities and delivery systems, both formal and non-formal, so as to give every individual access to education and training.

As an active partner in the inter-agency follow-up action, UNESCO participated at the first meeting of the "Inter-Agency Task Force on the Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action" convened in December 1994 in New York. UNESCO is the lead agency for the inter-agency "Working Group on Basic Education, with Special Attention to Gender Disparities", which held its first meeting with the participation of the representatives of UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, DESIPA Statistical Division, FAO, WHO, ILO and the World Bank in March, 1995 at UNESCO Headquarters.

Gender Equity and Empowerment of Women

The relationship between increased education for women and decreasing levels of fertility confirm the fact that women's reproductive choices depend on a process of empowerment. UNESCO is committed to and will expand its activities concerning various aspects of women's empowerment including women's education, training for economic self-reliance at all levels and the protection and enhancement of women's legal, social and human rights. In the coming years top priority will be given to the educational needs of women, especially in rural areas, with emphasis on the nine high-population developing countries and the least developed countries.

Specific operational projects proposed in the forthcoming draft biennial programme and to be carried out by various Divisions of UNESCO include projects on "promoting girls' and women's education in Africa"; "women, higher education and development"; "women, science and technology"; "women and water resource supply and use"; "empowering women: community

development programmes in rural areas"; "women in the service of civil peace" and "empowering women as agents of change in community development and population programmes and environmental protection".

Population, Environment and Development

The relationship between population, environment and development should be addressed in an integrated way in order to progress towards the type of development that assures a better quality of life for all. Various projects will aim to generate and update the scientific knowledge base required to understand the relationship between population, environment and development issues, focusing on both the social, economic and cultural context and global concerns.

A new UNESCO transdisciplinary project, Environment and Population Education and Information for Human Development seeks a new approach to education, training and information activities designed to deal with the interwoven issues of population, environment, and development, including gender perspectives, in a manner that is both integrated and based on sound scientific knowledge. The project aims to refine the knowledge base, to foster the development of new or re-oriented educational programmes and to mobilize the support of decision-makers and opinion leaders to address the complex issues of population, development and environment.

Technical support will be provided to Member States in the implementation of specific projects funded by UNFPA, UNDP, UNEP and other donor agencies. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the transdisciplinary approach necessary to deal with population, environment and development issues; this implies close interaction with the Organization's relevant programmes concerning education, sciences, culture and communications.

Population Information, Education and Communication (IEC)

An important aspect of the empowerment of people is education and communication specifically concerned with population issues. In addition to on-going population-education projects in secondary schools in a large number of countries, developed jointly with and financed by UNFPA, population-education courses in higher education will be promoted in various universities, teacher-training colleges and in institutes of journalism and mass communications, with a view to train the future generations of educators.

The areas of both traditional means of communication and the new information and communication technologies will be expanded to provide more effective teaching/learning methods in the field of population. UNESCO will seek, through pilot projects, to improve the population communication capacities of people living in the most disadvantaged rural and urban areas.

International Migration, with special emphasis on the linkages between migration and development and issues of socio-cultural adaptation

The educational, socio-economic and cultural factors affecting the adaptation and integration patterns of migrants, with particular attention to the educational and training needs of youth and women migrants, have been areas of concern for UNESCO; which include also the socio-cultural reintegration issues and needs of the children of returning migrants. Emergency assistance to reconstruct educational systems and to provide educational services for refugees and displaced persons will be provided under specific UNESCO projects.

UNESCO and its Partners

In implementing its operational projects and related activities UNESCO will strengthen working relations with the relevant institutions and donors at the country level through its field offices and UNESCO National Commissions. Emphasis will be placed on improving and expanding inter-agency collaboration and on defining country and regional level objectives and projects.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

1. On 13 September 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development adopted a Programme of Action that was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, entitled "Report on the International Conference on Population and Development".

2. The present paper has been prepared in response to that resolution in which the General Assembly, *inter alia*, calls upon the organs and organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies to give full and effective support to the implementation of the Programme of Action. The General Assembly further requests the specialized agencies and all related organizations of the United Nations system to review and, where necessary, adjust their programmes and activities in line with the Programme of Action and invites them to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1995.

3. This document is intended to provide a basis for WFP's report to ECOSOC. Moreover, the paper and related discussion at the Thirty-ninth Session of the CFA may help to define WFP's contribution to the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment of the substantive session of ECOSOC in 1995, which is to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action as a principal theme.

4. The Programme of Action presents a comprehensive set of measures designed to better human welfare in the context of the many and dynamic relationships between sustainable economic development and population growth. From an operational perspective, it envisages major activities in two broad areas. The first is associated with the root causes of the population problem and the second with the welfare of the present population. In the first area, the broad objectives include acceleration of sustainable economic growth, eradication of absolute poverty with secured basic needs, and enrichment of human capital. In the second area, the action required relates primarily to the need to mitigate the problematic results of rapid population growth and human conflicts, including the humanitarian treatment of the problems of refugees and the displaced.

5. There is a distinct complementarity between the major themes of the Programme of Action and WFP's policy orientation: both aim to enhance the well-being of the poor, and both

seek economic growth and the just distribution of the benefits of such growth in the context of sustainable development. There is also consistency in the choice of the key target groups. Both have a strong focus on the poor and vulnerable sections of the population, especially women and children. Finally, both emphasize the development of human resources, with particular stress on women.

6. There are, however, limits to the extent of the practical support that can be provided by WFP in implementing the Programme of Action. Not all areas are equally amenable to food-based interventions. The CFA has made clear that the policies governing the use of WFP food aid must be oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty. Hence, the challenge for WFP is to seek out - and do more in - areas where there is a complementarity of policy and operations.

7. WFP focuses heavily on the development of human resources through its programmes in the sectors of education, mother and child health and nutrition. It places women as a priority beneficiary group, on the fundamental premise that women are a pivotal element in any development strategy that seeks to "de-link" the vicious circle of population growth, poverty and degradation of resources. The Programme of Action fixes quantitative goals related to the reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality and morbidity. From the outset, WFP has provided assistance to activities in the health sector. The current approach of WFP is particularly supportive of the goals of the Programme of Action, because of WFP's emphasis on using food aid to facilitate the access of hungry, poor people to quality primary health care services. WFP will continue this approach.

8. A parallel situation exists in the education sector, where WFP's links with the Programme of Action are multiple. Reducing gender disparities in education has been, and remains, a principal goal of food-assisted projects in the education sector. In addition to primary education for girls, WFP continues to promote technical and vocational training as a means of contributing to women's self-sufficiency and empowerment. An intended outcome of the Beijing meeting later this year will be to lend further impetus to these efforts.

9. A great part of the resources at present made available to WFP is used to meet the food needs of tens of millions of human beings who risk starvation because of man-made and natural disasters. The Programme of Action envisages measures aimed at reducing the pressures leading to the movement and displacement of refugees, at meeting the basic needs of refugees and displaced people, and at their subsequent reintegration through development programmes that take into account refugee and returnee assistance and rehabilitation. WFP plays a major role in emergency situations where women (and their children) are the principal victims and thus figure prominently as beneficiaries. WFP will endeavour to define a determinant role for women in the administration of the assistance provided in relief operations and in follow-up rehabilitation and reintegration programmes. It is worthy of note that the Memorandum of Understanding between WFP and the UNHCR emphasizes, among other developmental initiatives, the commitment to promote education, health and empowerment of women through skills training.

10. In conclusion, WFP, consistent with its Mission Statement, will give full and effective support to the implementation of the Programme of Action. Effective collaboration will be the key. The preparation of Country Strategy Notes, along the lines proposed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/199, coupled with the progressive introduction by WFP of a programme approach based on country-specific strategies, will help to build on an already high level of mutually supportive actions.